

## BOOK NOTICE

KARTESZ, JOHN. T. 1994. **A Synonymized Checklist of the Vascular Flora of the United States, Canada and Greenland**. Second Edition. (ISBN 0-88192-204-8, hbk, 2 volumes); Timber Press Inc., 9999 S. W. Wilshire, Suite 124, Portland, OR 97225. (800) 327-5680. \$159.00. Vol. 1, 622, vol 2, 816 pp.

The long awaited second edition of John Kartesz' *A Synonymized Checklist of the Vascular Flora of the United States, Canada and Greenland* is finally available, and it was well worth the wait! This is officially a second edition, but it is more than just a new edition, it is rather a much expanded major rework which includes a new format and a second volume. This is a significant improvement over his 1980 work, which has been the standard for fourteen years.

As monographic research continues the taxonomic and nomenclatural process is in constant flux, and will be for many years to come. Also, much of the classification of our flora is a tangle of individual taxonomic opinion. This work does not attempt to solve all these problems, but it is a quantum leap forward, and is a solid new foundation on which to build the next cycle. With Kartesz' new *Checklist* we now have an incredibly valuable and comprehensive effort that sets a new standard.

The new edition has two volumes. The first is the familiar checklist that is alphabetical by families, genus, species, etc., and the synonyms of each of these taxa. The second volume is a new thesaurus that is a quick reference source with all names and authors used following exactly those in the body of the checklist with each name listed alphabetically by genus. Accepted names appear in Roman print and stand alone, whereas synonyms appear in italics and are followed by their accepted names. The thesaurus differs from the checklist by offering a rapid location system for all names, save those names above the genus level. The thesaurus and the checklist are together intended to provide a comprehensive summary of accepted names and their synonyms of the North American vascular flora north of Mexico: the continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U. S. Virgin Islands; Canada; the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon; and Greenland.

This is a major work which is used many times a day in my work of compiling floras, manuals, articles, books, and plant checklists of Texas and its many regions. This definitive *Checklist* on plant nomenclature and its synonymy is an indispensable tool of immense reference value, and is a must on the desk and bookshelf of taxonomists and systematists, botanists and horticulturists who must know the latest correct nomenclature of our flora.—Robert J. O'Kennon.